IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reporting a streaming quality, wherein at least one continuous media stream is streamed to a client (601), and wherein said streaming is controlled by a protocol (109) that is operated between said client (601) and a server (600), comprising:

[[-]]   selecting (602) at least one quality metric and a quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes, and

[[-]]   reporting (603) to said server (600) the quality of said streaming based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of selecting (602) said quality metrics class comprises the step of negotiating (605-609) said quality metrics class between said client (601) and said server (600).

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said protocol (109) defines a quality metrics class field within at least one of its protocol data unitsunit, wherein said quality metrics class field is capable of identifying each quality metrics class of said pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said quality metrics class field is located in a header section (3) of said at least one protocol data unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one selected quality metric is a Qquality of Eexperience (QoE) metric that is at least partially based on thea decision whether at least one frame of said at least one continuous media stream is a good frame.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein each quality metrics class in said pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes defines a different set of rules on how to decide whether a frame of said at least one continuous media stream is a good frame.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said set of rules defined by at least one of said quality metrics classes comprises:

[[-]]   deciding ~~the~~an earlier of

[[-]]   a completely received I-frame of said at least one continuous media stream or

   [[-]]   ~~the~~an N-th completely received frame of said at least one continuous media stream after a last frame error or loss

to be a good frame, wherein ~~the~~then is an integer ~~N~~that is either

signalled or defaults to ∞ in case of a video frame or

1 in case of an audio frame, and

[[-]]   deciding a frame of said at least one continuous media stream following a good frame to be a good frame, if said frame is completely received, and said frame and all subsequent frames until the next good frame to be corrupted, otherwise.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said set of rules defined by at least one of said quality metric classes comprises:

[[-]]   deciding a coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame according to an error tracking algorithm.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said set of rules defined by at least one of said quality metrics classes comprises:

[[-]]   deciding an intra-coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame, if it is completely received at said client, and to be a corrupted frame otherwise, or

[[-]]   deciding a predictively coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame, if it is completely received at said client and if all its

prediction reference samples <u>of said predictively coded frame</u> belong to good frames, and to be a corrupted frame otherwise.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said set of rules defined by at least one of said quality metrics classes comprises:

[[-]] deciding a coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame according to a decoding quality evaluation algorithm.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said set of rules defined by at least one of said quality metrics classes comprises:

[[-]] deciding an intra-coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame, if it is completely received at said client, and to be a corrupted frame otherwise, or

[[-]] deciding a predictively coded frame of said at least one continuous media stream to be a good frame, if it is completely received at said client and all ~~of its~~ prediction reference samples <u>of said predictively coded frame</u> belong to good frames,

or

if at least a part ~~(403)~~ of said frame is completely received, all prediction reference samples of said completely received parts of said frame belong to good frames, and all concealed parts ~~(402)~~ of said frame are considered as good, wherein concealed parts ~~(402)~~ of said frame are obtained by applying an error concealment algorithm to lost or erroneous parts ~~(400, 404)~~ of a decoded version of said frame, and wherein said concealed parts ~~(403)~~ are considered as good if an average boundary difference between ~~(502a-d)~~ said concealed parts ~~(402, 503)~~ and surrounding completely received ~~(403, 504)~~ and decoded parts of said frame is below a threshold.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said protocol ~~(109)~~ is a <u>R</u>~~r~~eal-time <u>S</u>~~s~~treaming <u>P</u>~~p~~rotocol ~~RTSP (109)~~ in combination with a <u>S</u>~~s~~ession <u>D</u>~~d~~escription <u>P</u>~~p~~rotocol ~~SDP (110)~~ in the context of a <u>P</u>~~p~~acket-<u>S</u>~~s~~witched <u>S</u>~~s~~treaming <u>S</u>~~s~~ervice ~~PSS~~ of a third generation mobile communications system.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said ~~SDP (110)~~session description protocol comprises at least one ~~SDP~~session description protocol attribute that defines at least one quality metrics class field, wherein said quality metrics class field is capable of identifying each quality metrics class of said pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said ~~RTSP (109)~~real-time streaming protocol is used to negotiate a quality metrics class between said client ~~(601)~~ and said server ~~(600)~~ at least partially based on said ~~SDP~~session description protocol attribute.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein said ~~RTSP (109)~~real-time streaming protocol uses a DESCRIBE method for said negotiation.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program with instructions operable to cause a processor to perform the method of claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer program with instructions operable to cause a processor to perform the method of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A streaming system, comprising:
[[-]] at least one client ~~(601)~~, and
[[-]] at least one server ~~(600)~~,
wherein at least one continuous media stream is streamed to said at least one client ~~(601)~~, and wherein said streaming is controlled by a protocol ~~(109)~~ that is operated between said at least one client ~~(601)~~ and said at least one server ~~(600)~~, wherein at least one quality metric and a quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes are selected, and wherein the quality of said streaming based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class is reported to said at least one server ~~(600)~~.

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19. (Currently Amended) A client (601) in a streaming system, comprising:

[[-]]   means (701) for operating a protocol (109) that controls a streaming of at least one continuous media stream to said client (601),

[[-]]   means (701) for selecting at least one quality metric and a quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes, and

[[-]]   means (701) for reporting the quality of said streaming based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class to a server (600).

20. (Currently Amended) A server (600) in a streaming system, comprising:

[[-]]   means (700) for operating a protocol (109) that controls a streaming of at least one continuous media stream to a client (601),

[[-]]   means (700) for selecting at least one quality metric and a quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes, and

[[-]]   means (700, 706) for receiving a reported quality of said streaming from said client (601), wherein said quality is reported based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class.

21. (Currently Amended) A protocol (109) for a streaming system, comprising:

[[-]]   rules for the control of a streaming of at least one continuous media stream to a client (601),

[[-]]   a definition of at least one quality metric and of a set of at least two quality metrics classes,

[[-]]   rules for the selection of at least one quality metric and of a quality metrics class from said set of at least two quality metrics classes, and

[[-]]   rules for the report of a quality of said streaming based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class to a server (600).

22. (New) Apparatus, comprising:

a streaming quality monitor for monitoring quality of a streaming application according to at least one quality metric and a quality metrics class; and

a real-time streaming protocol entity for operating a protocol for controlling at least one continuous media stream of said streaming application, for selecting said at least one quality metric and said quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes, and for reporting the quality of said streaming based on said at least one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class.

23. (New) Apparatus, comprising:

a quality data processing instance for evaluation and analysis for improving quality of a streaming application by enhancing a data rate of the application depending upon frequency of re-buffering events; and

a real-time streaming protocol entity for operating a protocol that controls a streaming of at least one continuous media stream, for selection at lest one quality metric and a quality metrics class from a pre-defined set of at least two quality metrics classes, and for receiving a reported quality of said streaming, wherein said quality is reported based on said at lest one selected quality metric and said selected quality metrics class.